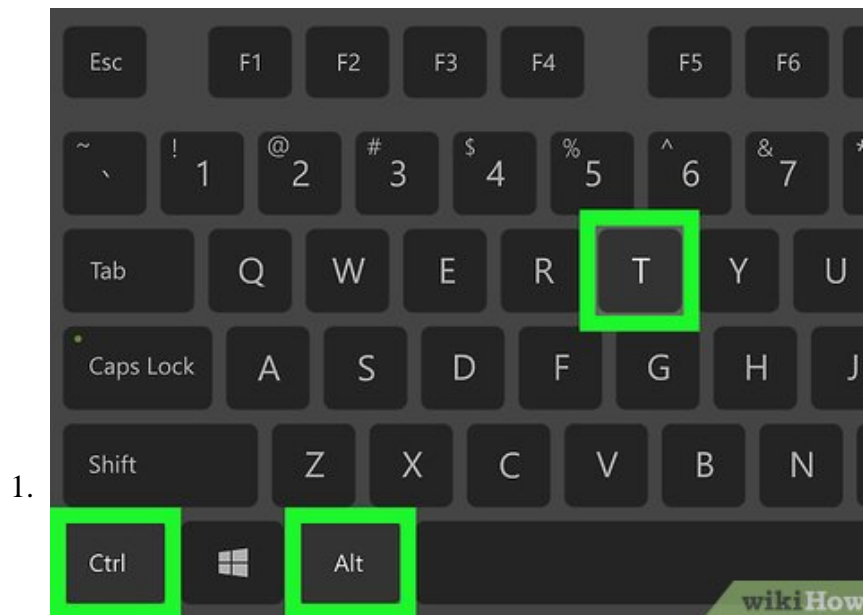


How to Copy Files in Linux

This wikiHow teaches you how to copy and paste a file on a Linux computer. The command line can be used to copy and paste files, or you can use the keyboard shortcuts or your computer's right-click function if you're using a version of...

Method 1 of 2:

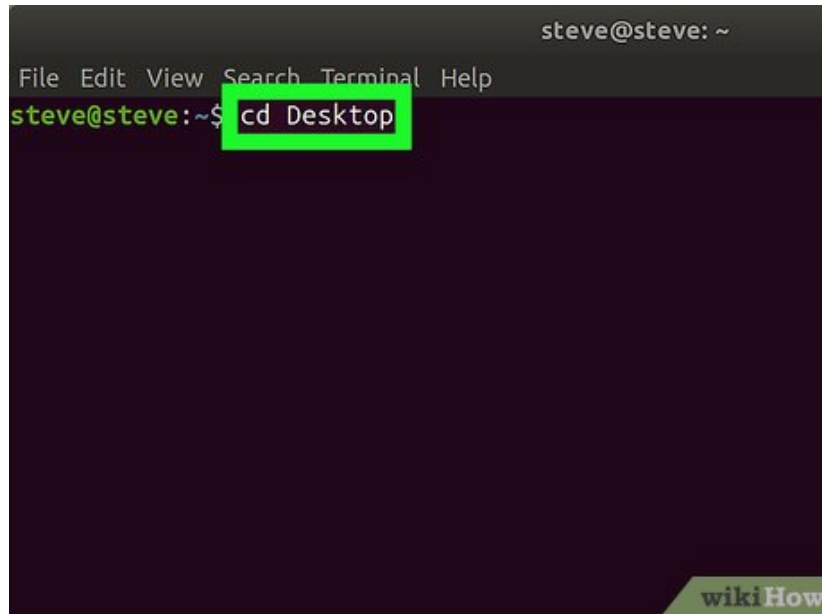
Using the Command Line



Open Terminal. Click or double-click the Terminal app icon, which usually resembles a black box with a white ">_" on it.

1. You can also just press `Alt + Ctrl + T` to open Terminal on most Linux versions.

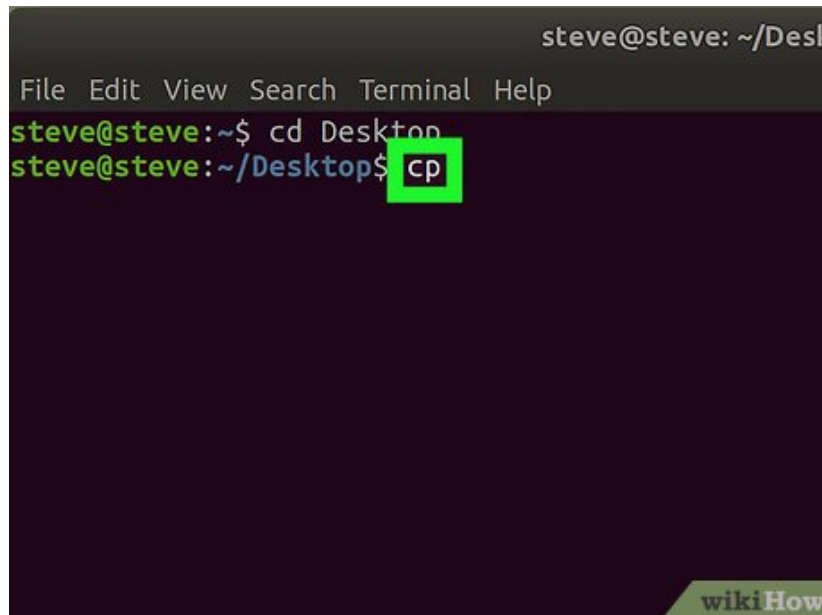
2.

A terminal window with a dark background and light text. The title bar at the top right says "steve@steve: ~". Below the title bar is a menu bar with "File Edit View Search Terminal Help". The main area shows the prompt "steve@steve:~\$" followed by the command "cd Desktop" which is highlighted with a green box. A "wikiHow" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Go to the proper directory. Type in `cd path` where "path" is the address of the folder in which the file you want to copy is located, then press `Enter`.

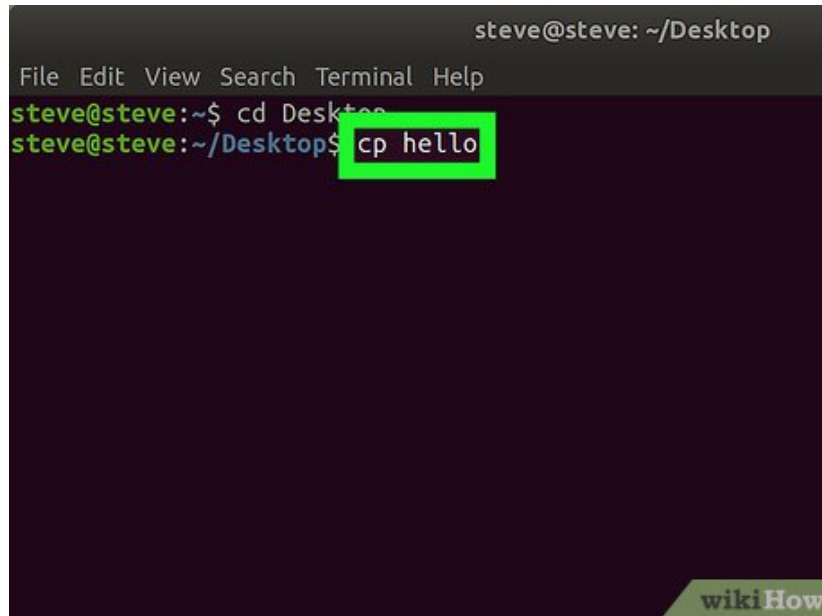
1. For example, to tell Terminal to look for your file in the Desktop folder, you would type `cd Desktop` into Terminal.
2. Make sure you capitalize the folder's name if necessary.
3. If attempting to switch to a folder results in an error, you'll need to enter the folder's entire path (e.g., `/home/name/Desktop/folder` instead of just `folder`) here.

3.

A terminal window with a dark background and light text. The title bar at the top right says "steve@steve: ~/Desk". Below the title bar is a menu bar with "File Edit View Search Terminal Help". The main area shows the prompt "steve@steve:~\$" followed by the command "cd Desktop" and a new prompt "steve@steve:~/Desktop\$" followed by the command "cp" which is highlighted with a green box. A "wikiHow" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Type in the "copy" tag. This tag is `cp` with a space after it.

4.



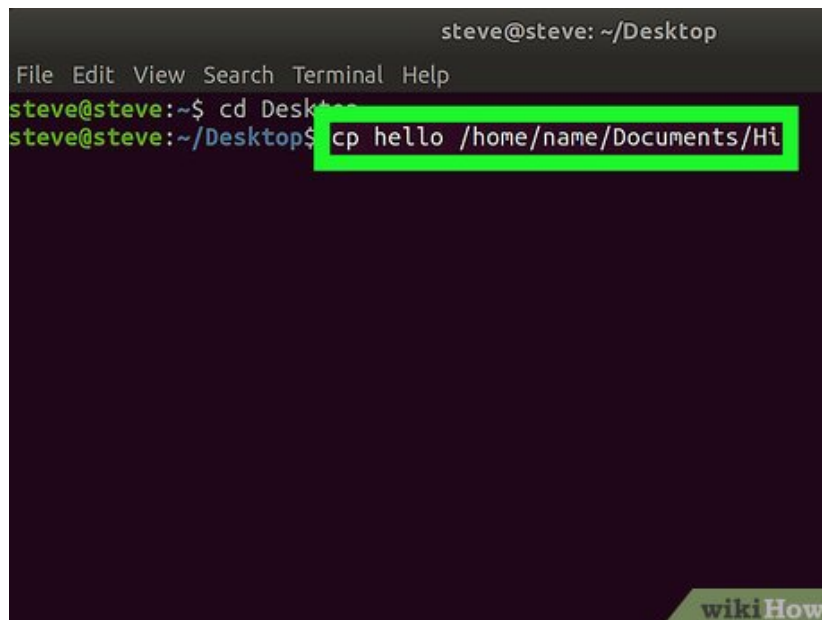
```
steve@steve: ~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
steve@steve:~$ cd Desktop
steve@steve:~/Desktop$ cp hello
```

A terminal window with a dark background and light text. The title bar reads 'steve@steve: ~/Desktop'. The menu bar includes 'File Edit View Search Terminal Help'. The command prompt shows 'steve@steve:~\$ cd Desktop' followed by 'steve@steve:~/Desktop\$ cp hello'. The text 'cp hello' is highlighted with a red box. A 'wikiHow' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Enter a file's name. Type in the name and extension of the file you want to copy after `cp` and the space, then add a space.

1. For example, if you want to copy a file named "hello", you would type `cp hello` into Terminal.
2. If the file name has an extension on the end of it (e.g., ".desktop"), make sure you include the extension in the file's name when typing it into Terminal.

5.

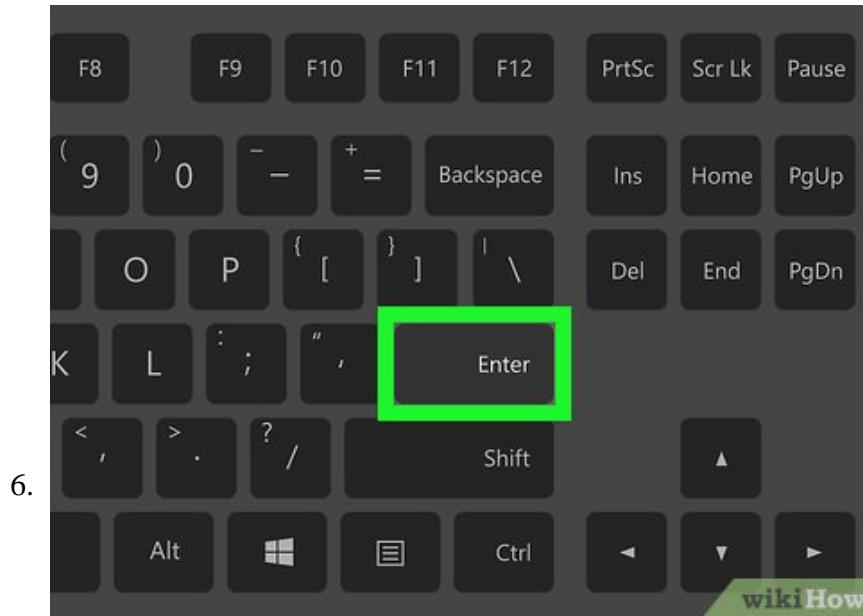


```
steve@steve: ~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
steve@steve:~$ cd Desktop
steve@steve:~/Desktop$ cp hello /home/name/Documents/Hi
```

A terminal window with a dark background and light text. The title bar reads 'steve@steve: ~/Desktop'. The menu bar includes 'File Edit View Search Terminal Help'. The command prompt shows 'steve@steve:~\$ cd Desktop' followed by 'steve@steve:~/Desktop\$ cp hello /home/name/Documents/Hi'. The text 'cp hello /home/name/Documents/Hi' is highlighted with a red box. A 'wikiHow' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Enter the destination folder. Type in the path for the folder into which you want to copy the file.

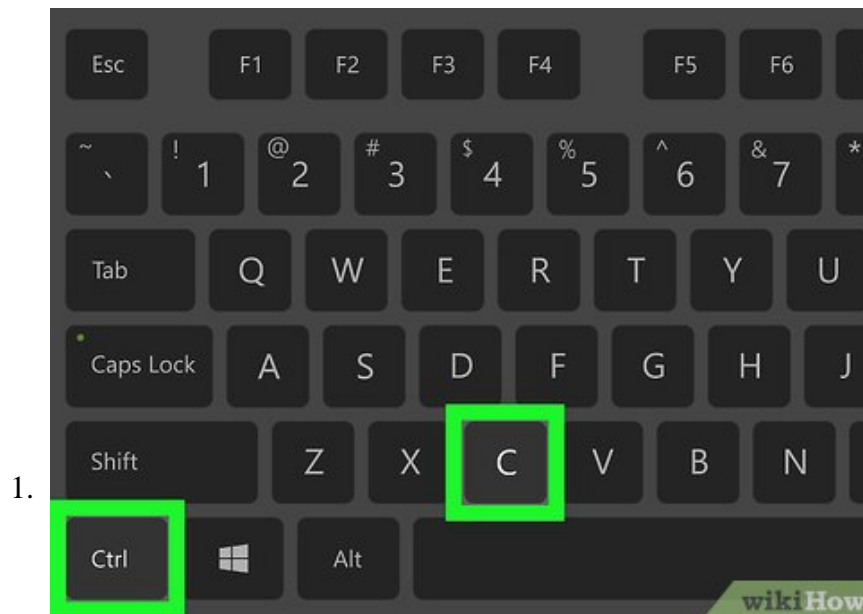
1. For example, if you want to copy "hello" into a folder named "Hi" that's stored in the Documents folder, you would have `cp hello /home/name/Documents/Hi` (where "name" is your username) typed into Terminal.



Press `Enter`. Doing so will run your command. Your file will be pasted into the folder you specified.

Method 2 of 2:

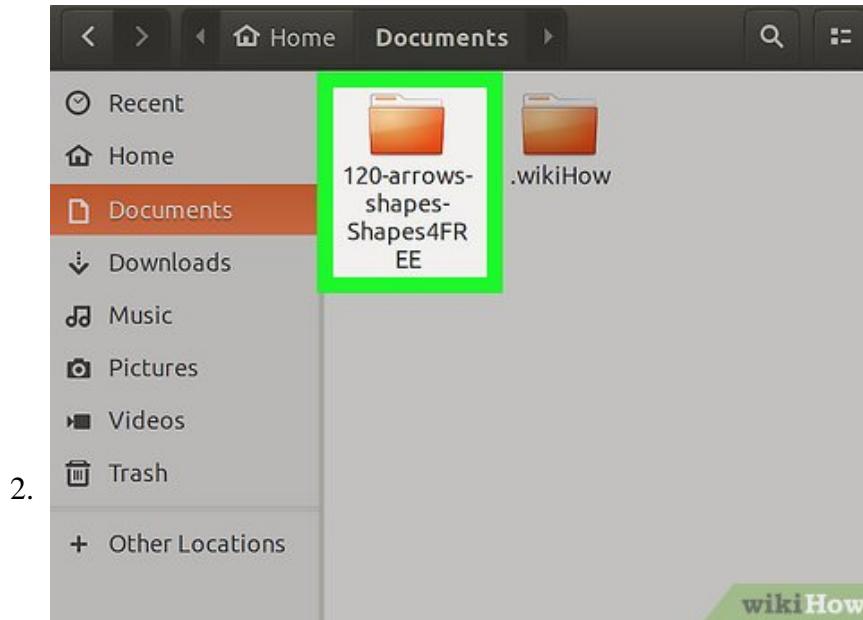
Using the Interface



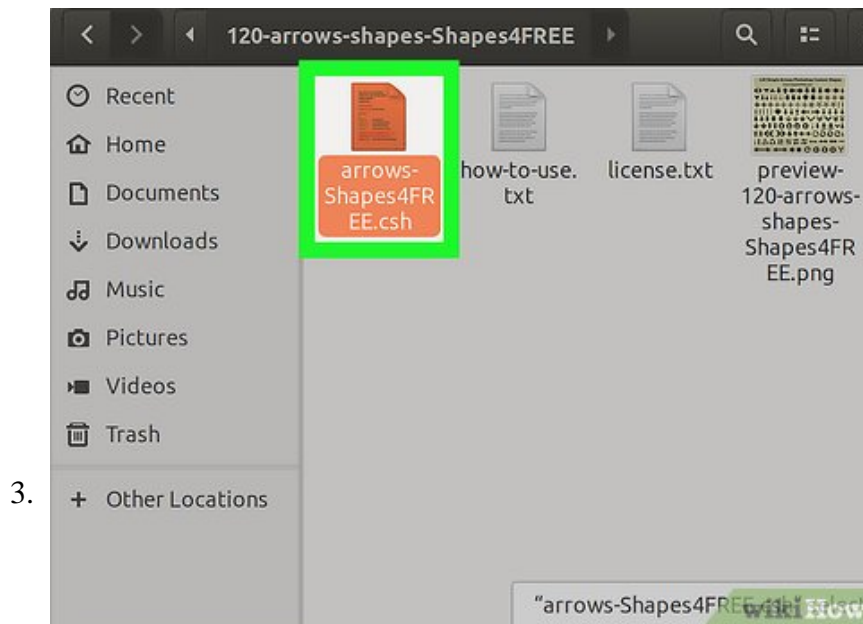
Consider using keyboard shortcuts. As with virtually all operating systems that have user interfaces, you can use keyboard shortcuts to copy and paste files on Linux:

1. Click the file you want to copy to select it, or drag your mouse across multiple files to select them all.
2. Press `Ctrl + C` to copy the files.
3. Go to the folder into which you want to copy the files.

4. Press **Ctrl + V** to paste in the files.

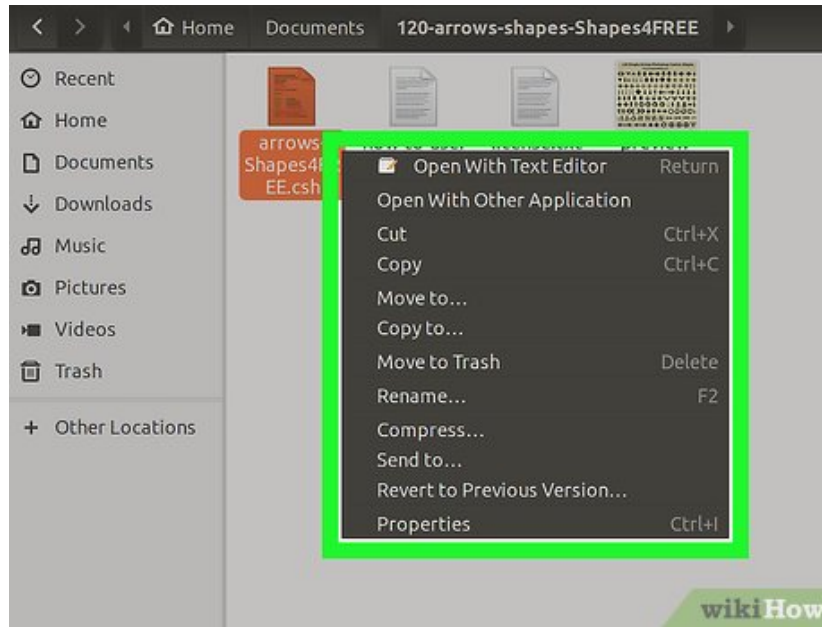


Find the file you want to copy. Go to the location in which the file is located.



Select the file. Click once the file to do so.

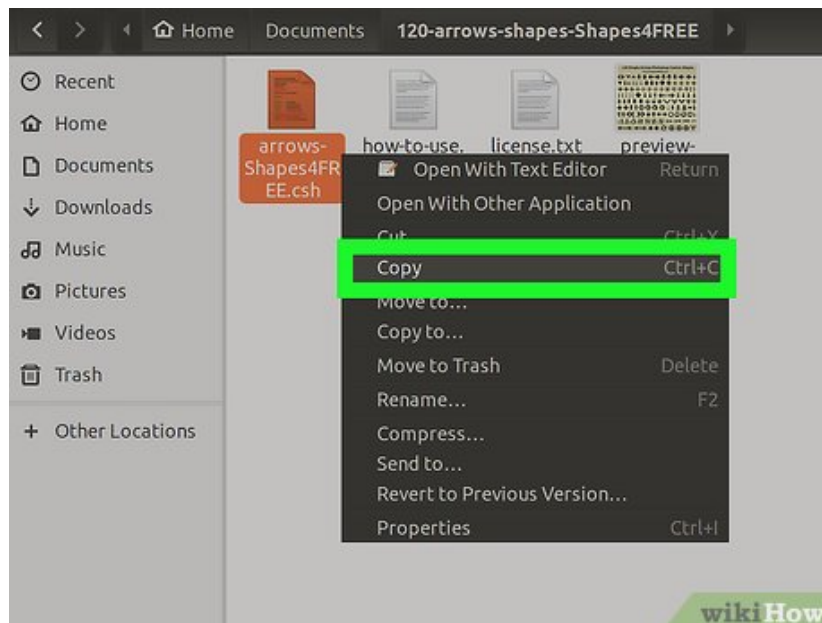
4.



Right-click the file. Doing so will prompt a drop-down menu.

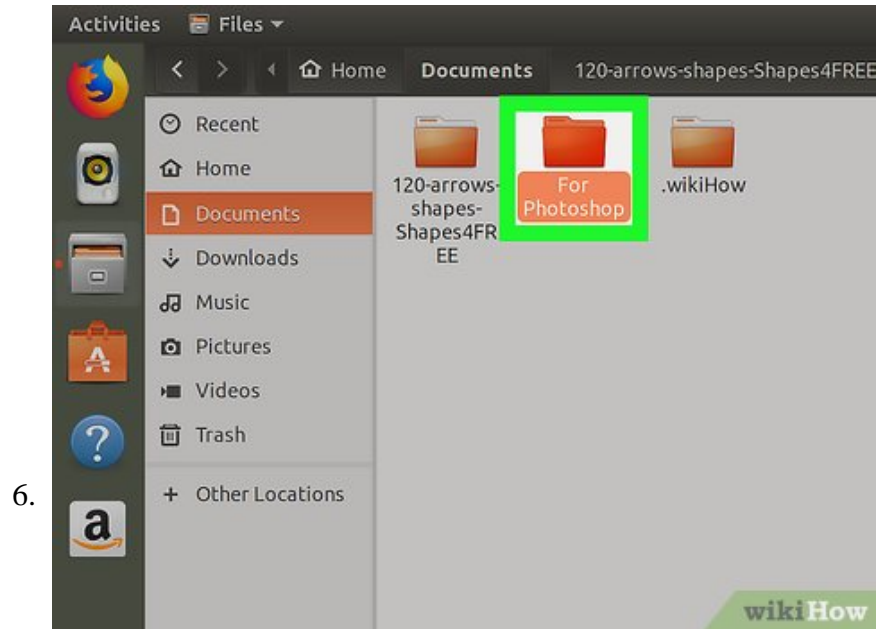
1. Some Linux versions will also display a menu bar at the top of the screen. If so, you can click **Edit** instead of right-clicking the selected file.

5.

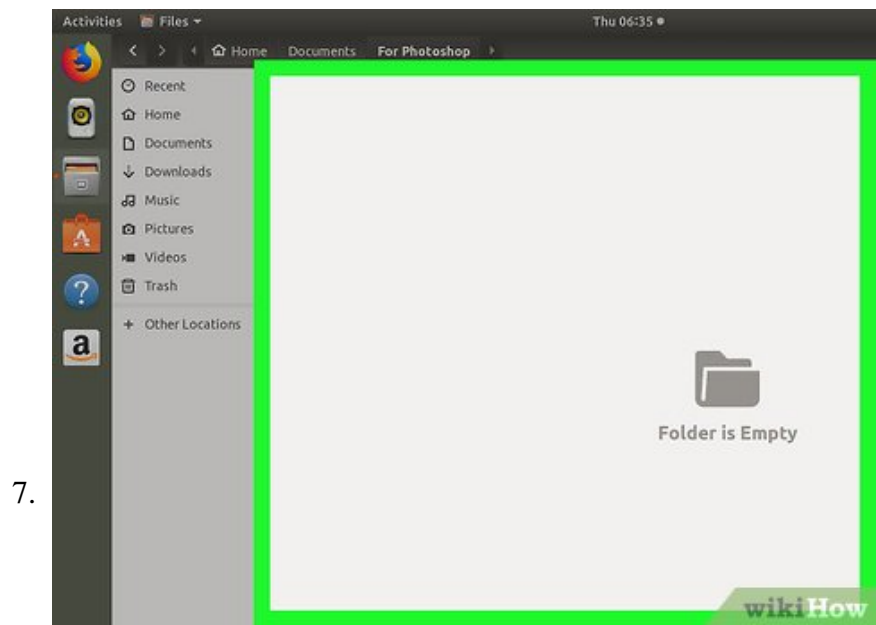


Click Copy. It's in the drop-down menu. This copies the selected file.

1. You may click **Copy...** or **Copy File** on some versions of Linux.

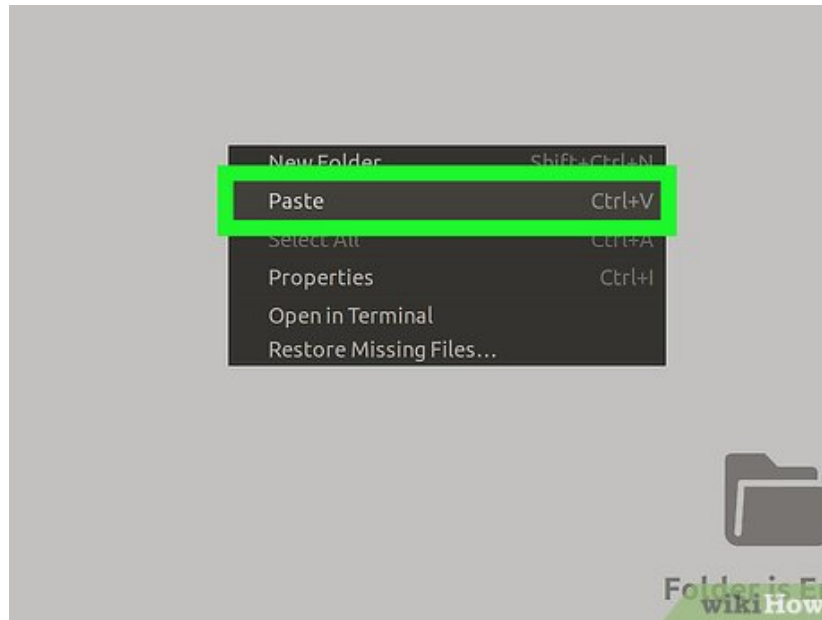


Go to the destination folder. Find the folder into which you want to paste the file.



Right-click an empty space. This will create a drop-down menu in the folder.

8.



Click **Paste**. It's in the drop-down menu. Doing so pastes in your copied file.

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